Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

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ACTION NODS-00

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S E C R E T USUN NEW YORK 02597

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FOR THE SECRETARY FROM YOUNG

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, PARM, UNGA
SUBJECT: THE SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT

1. THE SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT IS ENTERING ITS FINAL WEEK. WE DO NOT WANT TO HAZARD A PREDICTION AT THIS POINT ON ITS CONCLUSION -- WHETHER THE SSOD WILL BE SUCCESSFUL IN PRODUCING THE DOCUMENTS WHICH IT HAS ESTABLISHED AS ITS GOAL, OR WHETHER THOSE DOCUMENTS WILL BE SATISFACTORY TO US. CERTAINLY THE DECISIONS THE PRESIDENT HAS MADE REGARDING SECURITY ASSURANCES AND NUCLEAR CUT-OFF WILL PROVIDE US WITH IMPORTANT ADVANTAGES IN BRINGING ABOUT A SATISFACTORY OUTCOME. CERTAINLY, AS WELL, THERE IS GENERAL GOOD WILL AND, AT LEAST FOR NOW, A COMMON DESIRE AMONG THE DELEGATIONS HERE TO ACHIEVE CONSENSUS STATEMENTS WHICH WILL HAVE MEANING IN THE REAL WORLD OF DISARMAMENT AND WHICH WILL IMPART MOMENTUM TO THE PROCESS OF WHICH THE SSOD REPRESENTS ONLY A FIRST STAGE.

2. WHAT WE DO WANT TO UNDERSCORE AT THIS POINT IS THAT IN THE PROCESS OF REACHING CONSENSUS DOCUMENTS, CONSTANT VARIATIONS ON LANGUAGE WILL BE PRESENTED TO US

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DAILY AND ALMOST HOURLY FOR DECISION. WE WILL HAVE TO RESPOND RAPIDLY TO THE PROPOSITIONS PUT TO US AND, AS A GREAT POWER, OUR VIEWS ON THESE PROPOSITIONS WILL BE GIVEN SUBSTANTIAL THOUGH NOT DECISIVE WEIGHT. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, IT WILL BE IMPORTANT THAT WE RECEIVE NOT ONLY RAPID RESPONSES TO OUR REQUESTS FOR INSTRUCTIONS, BUT ALSO THE KIND OF FLEXIBILITY WHICH WILL ALLOW US

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TO WORK EFFECTIVELY HERE.

3. WHAT IS REQUIRED, ACCORDINGLY, IS NOT SIMPLY AN EFFICIENTLY FUNCTIONING MACHINE FOR TURNING OUT INSTRUCTIONS. WE HAVE BEEN SATISFIED WITH THE REACTION TIME THUS FAR TO OUR REQUESTS FOR GUIDANCE. MORE IMPORTANT WILL BE THE ATTITUDE WHICH WE, WITH YOUR SUPPORT, TAKE TOWARDS THE NEGOTIATING EFFORT WHICH IS AHEAD OF US IN THE NEXT WEEK. IT IS CRITICAL THAT WE NOT LOOK UPON THE CONFERENCE DOCUMENTS AS TANTAMOUNT TO TREATIES. WE NEED NOT BE FEARFUL OF EVERY NUANCE AND AT ALL THE POSSIBLE "WORST-CASE" INTERPRETATIONS OF LANGUAGE BECAUSE WE ARE PERSUADED THAT THERE WILL BE ENOUGH FLEXIBILITY BUILT INTO THE DOCUMENTS TO ALLOW US EFFECTIVELY TO PURSUE OUR NATIONAL PURPOSES. INSTEAD, WE MUST VIEW THE FINAL DOCUMENTS AS POLITICAL INSTRUMENTS, EXPRESSING AN ATTITUDE, A SENSE OF DIRECTION, AND A COMMUNITY OF PURPOSE WHICH WILL SERVE TO DRAW NATIONS MORE EFFECTIVELY INTO A CONTINUING DIALOGUE ON ARMS CONTROL QUESTIONS AND PROVIDE US WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO DIRECT THEIR ATTENTION TO WHAT THEY AND WE CAN DO TO ACHIEVE BROADLY AGREED OBJECTIVES.

4. TO UNDERSCORE THE PUBLIC POLICY DISCUSSIONS OF OUR EFFORTS HERE, I DRAW YOUR ATTENTION TO THE ARTICLE IN THE JUNE 15 NEW YORK TIMES REPORTING THAT 22,000

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SOUTHERN BAPTIST DELEGATES THIS WEEK FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THEIR CHURCH'S HISTORY ADOPTED RESOLUTIONS SUPPORTING ARMS CONTROL EFFORTS AND THAT THE SSOD HAD SERVED AS THE CATALYST. THE ARTICLE MENTIONS THE MOBILIZATION OF OTHER CHURCH GROUPS. WE HOPE THAT YOU WILL AGREE THAT OUR INTEREST IN A POSITIVE RESULT IS HIGH AND THAT YOU WILL ASK THOSE WHO HAVE WORKED SO WELL TO SUPPORT US TO BEAR THE FULL ARRAY OF POLICY CONSIDERATIONS IN MIND IN THE WEEK AHEAD. YOUNG

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